REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner has provisionally rejected several claims on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. Additionally, the Examiner has rejected several claims for being unpatentable over various cited references. The Examiner, however, has indicated that some claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, the Examiner indicates that, after reconsideration, the restriction requirement imposed on claims 10-15 in the prior Office Action has been withdrawn. Accordingly, only claims 16-20 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations set forth in claim 3. The Examiner has indicated that such a claim would be allowable. Consequently, claim 3 has been cancelled. Also, claim 10 has been amended to include the limitation set forth in claim 11. Again, the Examiner has indicated that such a claim would be allowable. Further, Applicant has added a new independent claim 21 that includes the limitations previously set forth in claim 4 and its base claim (i.e. claim 1). Like amended claims 1 and 10, the Examiner has indicated that such a claim 21 would be allowable. Applicant has also added a new claim 22 (only adds the limitations of original claim 3).

Amendments to the claims have been made to put this application into condition for allowance by: 1) improving the readability of the claims; 2) more clearly defining the structure of the present invention; and 3) pointing out the features which distinguish this

invention over the cited art. After the cancellations and additions mentioned above, claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-15 and 21-22 are now pending.

Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 1, 5-8, 10, 13 and 14 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting.

Amended claim 1 (previously claim 3) and amended claim 10 (previously claim 11) were not rejected for nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. Instead, these claims have been identified as being allowable. With this in mind, Applicant contends the double patenting rejection is inapplicable to these claims. Applicant also contends the same argument is appropriate for new independent claim 21 (previously claim 4). Further, the claims that now depend from these pending independent claims (1, 10 and 21) benefit from this same argument.

For the reasons given above, Applicant believes the basis for rejecting claims under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting has been overcome, and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claim 1 has been rejected for being unpatentable over L'Esperance, Jr. (4,718,418) in view of Glockler (6,562,026). And, claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 13 and 14 have been rejected for being unpatentable over Webb et al. (7,018,376) in view of Glockler.

As indicated above, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended in a

manner which the Examiner has indicated will make them allowable. Accordingly, their respective dependent claims are also allowable.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant contends the bases for rejecting claims for being unpatentable have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

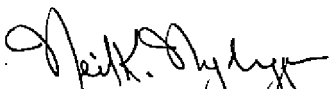
Added Claims

New claim 21 incorporates only the limitations set forth in original claims 1 and 4, and new claim 22 only adds limitations set forth in original claim 3. The Examiner has indicated such claims would be allowable. No new matter has been added.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-15 and 21-22 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 619-688-1300 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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